

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 7-9.

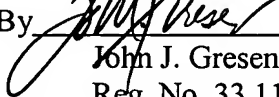
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 31 December 2003

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG:hjm

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir: